



**May 2009**

**NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK**

### **Important Dates**

#### **May 6th— 8:30am**

District-Wide All Hands meeting—Sacramento

#### **May 7, 14, 21 & 28**

School Days Programs

#### **May 10th**

Mother's Day

#### **May 11th—9am**

Special Events Committee Meeting (always 2nd Monday)

#### **May 13th—11am**

Sierra #3 Shop Tour

#### **May 15th—9am**

Final Walk-Through for Behind the Scenes Tour

#### **May 9th—8:30-9:45**

Mini-Training—Curator  
Kyle Wyatt will talk about our rolling stock collection

#### **May 16th**

CSRMF Behind the Scenes Tour of Railtown. 300 Members attending!

#### **May 23, 24th**

Memorial Day Weekend & Lone Rail Fair

#### **July 18th**

Volunteer Potluck BBQ, music and outdoor movie night. Mark your calendar, more to come later!

### **Behind the Scenes Tour Set for May 16th**

Every year the California State Railroad Museum Foundation presents a special "Behind the Scenes Tour" for its members. This year Railtown was chosen as the location, and there has been a tremendous response. Over 300 will be attending!

Members will be arriving by chartered bus and personal vehicles, and once they arrive, will immediately begin a 75-minute guided tour, with stops at the 2901 Car, Belt-Driven Machine Shop, Master Mechanic's Office, Caboose Restoration, and the Sierra #3 Restoration. The tour will be followed by a catered lunch in the picnic area, and afternoon train rides.

Coordinating an active event with 300 participants and a tight schedule requires a high degree of planning and coordination. We need many volunteers to assist with this event, as well as the regular operations of the day. If you are interested, please let Dave Rainwater know, and also plan to be at the final walk-through (where we will be doing a complete tour rehearsal) on Friday, May 15th at 9am.

This is Railtown's chance to shine. We are looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to share all that Railtown has to offer.

### **Is Something in the Water?**

Not one, but two sets of newlyweds to report this month. First Virginia Stamm and Joe Bispo went down to the courthouse in late March, then Lori Brannan and Dave Rainwater followed them a week later.

***Congratulations!***



## Back Track— Railtown in History

### Sierra Railway Property Burned

*The Daily Union Democrat, October 8, 1910—Submitted by Craig Konklin*

A fire in Jamestown Thursday evening destroyed the round-house and machine shops of the Sierra Railway Company. In about twenty minutes, after the alarm was sounded the destruction of the building which houses the engines and machinery was complete. There were three engines in the structure at the time, but one of these was taken out by a freight engine that had just returned to the roundhouse. Unfortunately, the relief engine got off the track which left the remaining two engines at the mercy of the flames. However, these engines can be put in good shape as only the woodwork was burned. The estimated loss caused by the fire is \$10,000. There was no insurance. It is not known how the fire originated, but it was thought due to an explosion that occurred in some unaccountable manner at about the time the fire was discovered. Sparks from the blaze set fire to the grass in the vicinity of Campo Seco but was extinguished before any damage was done.



### Promoted!

Stephanie Tadlock promoted to conductor this month. Congratulations!



### New Tables Arrive

Thanks to Dave Hole and Marc Abbott, we now have new furniture in the Carriage Room. The two volunteered to construct the tables with lumber purchased with state funds in March. They did an excellent job.

The tables are just one part of a makeover for the Carriage Room, which will also include new exhibits. Mike Rainwater just completed the background for our new exhibit panel on Roundhouses. Stay Tuned!

## ***Bits and Pieces***

### **Railtown Blog Unveiled– [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)**

We have introduced a new interpretive tool on the internet, the Railtown blog. If you aren't familiar with a blog, it is simply an online diary. (Blog is an abbreviation for "web log").

This is a great tool to help us show the activities of the Jamestown Shops-something that most visitors are not aware of, even though it is really the essence of what makes Railtown a unique and rare historic resource.

### **Sierra #3 Status**

If you've been near the Tri-Dam shops lately, you've probably heard the very loud noise of riveting of the #3 tender cistern. The wooden frame for the tender has been sent to Joe Cover and Sons in Tuolumne, where it is being reconstructed using the same materials and methods of the original frame. The boiler is scheduled to return from Chelatchie Boiler Works, of Camas, Washington, in late June. Shop tours will continue throughout the project, and updates will be continuously posted on the blog.

### **Steam at Railtown**

Maintenance issues have sidelined both the Shay #2, and the Sierra #28. It is possible that we'll be running the #613 Diesel for the month of May, as we attempt to resolve these maintenance issues. Because Railtown is known for its steam operations, it is hard for many of us to get excited about running the Diesel. But it is important to remember that most visitors are happy to be here, riding the train, in our beautiful setting (and some even get excited about this Diesel, it's a unique locomotive in its own right). If there is a silver lining to all of this, it is that we have some amazing opportunities to interpret restoration activities in the shops, and we have wonderful, skilled paid and volunteer staff on the job. Remember to stay positive! Grousing and complaining kills positive word-of-mouth, which is our best form of advertising.

### **Volunteers Wanted for Jamestown Jail**

Now that the Jamestown Jail has been completed, volunteers are being sought to open it on weekends during the tourist season. This is a brand-new program, and self-directed, experienced volunteers would be a real asset. If you have time and interest, please contact Steve Willey, (209) 984-3446 P.O. Box 502, Jamestown, Ca. 95327 [info@national-hotel.com](mailto:info@national-hotel.com) or Charlie Marangio at (209) 984-3370.

### **Warren Smith-update**

Our thoughts have been with Warren Smith and his family as Warren has been hospitalized. We wish him a speedy recovery!

### **From the Desk of Dave**

- Wanted! Needed! Roundhouse Tour Guides for Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. Please consider committing to this need, even if just every other week, the visitors need you!
- Don't forget to sign in on the sign-in sheet when you work. Be counted!
- Remember all public contact volunteers should wear a nametag when on duty. New volunteers have temporary nametags available in the office, or call Dave Rainwater for more information.







**PO Box 1250**  
**Jamestown, CA 95327**  
**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**

**Docent Hotline-for updates and information**  
**(209)-984-4408**



**Railtown Paid Staff Contact Information**

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*Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request*